

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 OMB-01 VOE-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 STR-04 /057 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RACHRISTENSEN:LG

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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R 192259Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

UNCLAS STATE 037685

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEW, RO

SUBJECT: PRESS QUESTIONS ON TRADE AGREEMENT

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT FEB. 18 DEPARTMENT  
PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. SIR, IS THE UNITED STATES DISCUSSING AN AGREEMENT  
WITH ROMANIA CONCERNING THE GRANTING OF THE CLOSE OF THE  
MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR EASING  
RESTRICTIONS ON IMMIGRATION IN ROMANIA?

A. WELL, IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION I UNDERSTAND  
THAT WE DID BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON JAN. 15TH OF A TRADE  
AGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA. THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING  
5 SATISFACTORILY. I DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'LL BE COMPLETED.

AS FOR THE QUESTION OF IMMIGRATION, WE ARE NEGOTIATING  
THE AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
TRADE ACT OF 1974. AND, AS YOU KNOW, THE TRADE AGREEMENT  
WOULD PROVIDE MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT AND CONTAIN  
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OTHER PROVISIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE ACT.

Q. THAT MEANS YES, DOES IT?

Q. LONG YES.

Q. CAN YOU AMPLIFY ON THAT ANY MORE AS TO HOW FAR LONG THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT THIS STAGE? COULD YOU SAY THEY'RE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY, OR ARE THEY ABOUT COMPLETED?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'LL BE COMPLETED.

Q. ARE THERE NEGOTIATIONS IN BUCHAREST OR HERE? WHERE ARE THEY NEGOTIATING?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE LOCALE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT WE'LL GET THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHO'S CONDUCTING THEM, BOB, ON THE AMERICAN SIDE?

A. I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. ARE THESE THE ONLY NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES UNDER THAT SECTION OF THE TRADE REFORM ACT?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY OTHER NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AT THIS TIME.

Q. BOB, LET ME JUST COME BACK TO THE TRADE TALKS FOR A MINUTE. I'D LIKE TO ASK WHY, WHEN THE DELEGATION-- WHICH, I BELIEVE, NUMBERS FIVE OR SIX--HEADED BY THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY--WENT TO BUCHAREST--WHAT IS IT NOW; THREE-FOUR WEEKS AGO?--IT WASN'T ANNOUNCED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A. I JUST DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, JOHN.

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Q. I'D LIKE TO ASK AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION'S CRITICISM OF THE IMMIGRATION TRADE LINK IN THE TRADE REFORM BILL APPLY TO THE PROVISIONS WHICH ARE NOW BEING NEGOTIATED CONCERNING ROMANIA?

A. WELL, AS I SAID, THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT DO APPLY TO THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. YES, THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. WHAT I'M ASKING IS WHETHER THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, THEREFORE, ARE BASED SQUARELY ON APPLYING THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THAT TRADE AGREEMENT TO ROMANIA OR IF THERE IS SOME CONCEPT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF A MODIFICATION OF THE TRADE ACT.

A. NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF. WE'RE NEGOTIATING THE AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974.

Q. DOES THE AMENDMENT DEALING WITH IMMIGRATION LIMIT THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. WELL, AS I SAID EARLIER, KEN, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.

Q. HAVE WE GOTTEN TO THAT POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. CAN YOU AMPLIFY AT ALL WHAT YOU MEAN BY "PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY" THEN?

A. NO. I CAN'T AMPLIFY IT BEYOND THAT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE037685  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RACHRISTENSEN:LG  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750060-0817  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750230/aaaabaxv.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS QUESTIONS ON TRADE AGREEMENT  
**TAGS:** EEWT, RO, US  
**To:** BUCHAREST  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006